



# the Louisiana Director's CONTRACTOR NEWS SOURCE

*An Official Quarterly Newsletter for Louisiana Licensing Board For Contractors*

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2005

## Ready to Rebuild Louisiana

Louisiana's Contractor Licensing Board is experiencing a 300% increase in its monthly volume of license applications. For the eight months ended August 31, 2005, application volume averaged 183 per month. For the period September 1st through October 14th, 2005, applications averaged 540 per month. This is especially noteworthy since hurricanes Katrina and Rita both struck within 3 weeks of each other and caused the Board's offices to close for several days due to the storms.

The Board sees the significant increase in licensing as a positive indica-

tor because many who are coming to Louisiana to support our cleanup and rebuilding efforts are taking our message that there is a Louisiana Contractor Licensing Law seriously. The best protection Louisiana business owners and citizens could have in the aftermath of the storms is to know that Louisiana domiciled contractors and out-of-state contractors who are licensed in Louisiana are regulated by the Contractor Licensing Board. The Board holds approximately 300 administrative hearings and issues approximately 2,000 citation letters per year relative to alleged violations of the Contractor Licensing Law.

The Board produced a public service announcement that is appearing on 33 cable networks and radio throughout Louisiana regarding the need for contractors to be licensed. This advertisement is targeting Louisiana's citizens to be aware

that they should hire only contractors who have met Louisiana contractor licensing requirements before they perform the work. Contractors who just come to help will also become aware that there is a contractor licensing law and will want to obtain a Louisiana license to avoid being shut down by cease and desist orders from the Board.

In addition to the public service announcements, the Board's executive director has participated in numerous public forums providing critical information to the public regarding the collaboration of efforts between federal, state,

**See Rebuild, page 3**



Louisiana Contractor Boh Brothers Construction Co. repairs Twin Span. Photo courtesy of DOTD.



Immediate work begins on the Twin Span in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

Photo courtesy of DOTD.

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*Oilfield Contractors Association*

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**Nelson "Andy" Dupuy, Jr.**

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**Art Favre**

*ABC - Sixth Congressional District*

**David R. Gallo**

*Mechanical Contractors Association*

*First Congressional District*

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*Member-at-Large - Sixth Congressional District*

**Garland Meredith**

*NECA - Fifth Congressional District*

**Bert Wilson**

*Louisiana Asphalt Association*

*First Congressional District*

**Kirk Williams**

*Member-at-Large - Sixth Congressional District*

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**The Louisiana Director's Contractor News Source** is published quarterly by the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors

# 2005 Licensing Board



**Top Row (L to R):** Jimmie Cascio (*deceased*), Don Descant, Garland Meredith, David Gallo, Kirk Williams, Bert Wilson, Jonathan Holloway, and Nelson "Andy" Dupuy, Jr.

**Bottom Row (L to R):** Art Favre, Tara Brown, Vic Weston, Byron Talbot, Donald Lambert, Phyllis Adams, and George Crain, Jr.



**Chuck Marceaux**, Executive Director



**Joy Evans**, Board Administrator

## *State Licensing Board Field Offices*

#### **New Orleans**

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Harahan, Louisiana 70123  
(504) 736-7125

#### **Lake Charles**

Bud Building  
1225 Hodges Street  
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601  
(337) 491-2241

## Victor Weston, Vice Chairman

Vic Weston - a construction industry icon.

It's hard to be in the construction industry and not know the name Vic Weston. Some know him as President of Tri-State Road Boring, Inc., a Baton Rouge-based construction company; others know him in his many roles such as Vice Chairman of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, Vice Chairman of the Contractors Educational Trust Fund, Treasurer and Public Relations Chairman for the Louisiana Associated General Contractors (which he served as President in 1992), Treasurer of the Associated General Contractors of America, Board Member of CIAC at LSU, or as an Advisory Board Member for Trenchless Technology Center at Louisiana Tech University.

Weston has served on the Licensing Board for Contractors for several years. His vision as vice chairman is to continually improve the industry through his involvement with reciprocity and national standard exams. Weston noted that the Board tries very hard to be



more than a regulatory board, they concentrate their efforts on contributing to the health safety and general welfare of the public in dealing with the construction industry. "The license law was originally established as a life safety code, that's why the Board is concerned about the safety of the public," said Weston.

His passion for the construction industry began while working for Louisiana DOTD 41 years ago, ever since he has been intricately involved in building Louisiana.

In 1975, he and his wife Joy started Tri-State Road Boring, a road boring construction company. "Serving the construction industry is a hobby for me, and always will be," stated Weston.

When Weston is not giving back to the industry he is at Tiger Stadium tailgating with family and friends.

## Tax Preparation Hints - Construction Tax Tips

*Reprinted from [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)*

When preparing your tax return, you should refer to the instructions for each return type (i.e., Form 1040, Schedule C, Form 1120, 1120S, or 1065) for the proper North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code that most accurately describes your particular business activity. General construction codes are provided for Building, Developing, General Contracting, Heavy Construction, and Special Trade Contractors:

### Building, Developing, and General Contracting

- 233110 Land Subdivision and Land Development
- 233210 Single Family General Construction Contractors

### Heavy Construction

- 234100 Highway and Street Construction

### Special Trade Contractors

- 235110 Plumbing, Heating & A/C
- 235210 Painting & Wall Covering Contractors
- 235310 Electrical Contractors
- 235410 Bricklaying Construction Contractors
- 235610 Roofing, Siding, and Sheet Metal.

For more information, visit [www.irs.gov/smallbiz](http://www.irs.gov/smallbiz). Click on Industries/Professions, Click on Construction.

## Rebuild - continued from front page

and local government agencies and providing answers to questions during the panel discussions. The Board's field investigative staff have been called in to man contractor hotlines to assist the public at large and to help disseminate information to contractor applicants. They are also working in conjunction with the Attorney General's office to promote public protection in the disaster areas of the state.

The Board currently regulates approximately 17,800 contractors who perform commercial, residential, industrial, hazardous, and mold remediation work in Louisiana. We employ 24 field compliance investigators throughout the state.

For more information concerning Contracting Licensing, verifying whether someone is licensed or not, please visit [www.lslbc.louisiana.gov](http://www.lslbc.louisiana.gov) or contact us at 1-866-310-7879, our contractor hotline.



## Helpful hints to insure the most efficient processing of your renewal application . . .

### Remember that renewals are available on-line.

The User ID and Password needed to complete the on-line renewal are located at the bottom of the printed renewal form mailed to you. Be sure to submit via mail any additional documentation and fee after completing the on-line renewal process.

Be sure to answer **every** question and sign and date the renewal form.

Submit the correct **total fee due**, which includes a \$15 transaction fee.

Make checks/money orders payable to LSLBC, and be sure to sign each check.

Submit a separate check/money order **(in addition to** all applicable renewal fees) if you choose to make a **voluntary** donation to one or more of the university foundations of the accredited construction management programs at LSU, ULM, or Louisiana Tech. If you wish to split your donation, you must designate which portion of your donation is to be disbursed to which foundation.

Carefully review the renewal instructions which are printed on the reverse side of the renewal form. The following items are required **as applicable**:

**ALL contractors:** Documentation and fee for name/ownership changes and/or merger/conversion.

### AND

**Commercial contractors:** Asbestos Contractor/Supervisor Certification (Asbestos Removal or Abatement classification), Contractor Letter of Approval (Lead Based Paint classification), or Asbestos Contractor/Supervisor Certification and Contractor Letter of Approval (Hazardous Materials classification).

**Residential contractors:** Proof of **four (4) hours** of continuing education for **each** qualifying party and certificates of insurance for general liability and worker's compensation coverages.

**Mold Remediation contractors:** Certificate of insurance for worker's compensation coverage and general liability insurance.

Failure to do any of the above will result in a delay in processing your renewal and a resultant delay in issuing a 2006 license certificate.

## The Importance of Construction Education and the Image of the Construction Industry at Large

Now more than ever, Louisiana faces a tremendous need for the professionalism of its future construction contractors to help rebuild in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. One practical and specific way that all licensed contractors can help in fulfilling this vision is to make voluntary contributions to Louisiana's three accredited schools of construction, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, the University of Louisiana Monroe, and the Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana. The 2004 Louisiana Legislature passed a bill that allows licensed contractors, upon renewal of their contractor licenses, to donate additional voluntary monetary contributions to a public university or community college foundation that offers an accredited, degreed program in the field of construction management. After each fiscal year's audit, the Board remits 100% of the designated contributions collected to each selected university or community college foundation.

The Board collected and distributed in excess of \$35,000 to the designated construction management programs for fiscal year 2005. We hope you will do so again for 2006, and hope you will encourage others to do so. The Louisiana State Licensing Board encourages and applauds your generosity and commitment to the future graduates of Louisiana's accredited Schools of Construction Management Programs. Help your industry build its future by investing in this way. **Thank you!**

# National News

## NASCLA Donates \$10,000 to AGC of America Katrina Construction Workers Fund

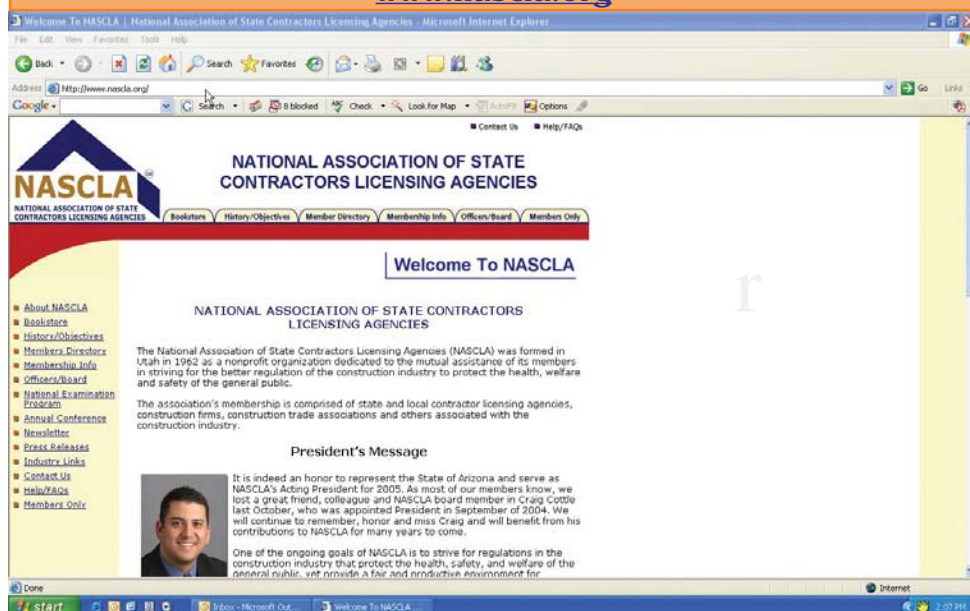
On Tuesday, October 11, Charles Marceaux, Board Member of the National Association of State Contracting Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) presented AGC of America's Treasurer Vic Weston with a generous contribution of \$10,000 for AGC's Hurricane Katrina Construction Workers Fund.

The Hurricane Katrina Construction Workers Fund, through the AGC Education and Research Foundation, was established to provide financial assistance to the construction workers in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who suffered financially from the disaster. AGC of America will work with the chapters in those states to establish criteria for eligibility, identify eligible victims and distribute contributions. AGC thanks all those who have donated to this fund.



Charles Marceaux (right) of NASCLA presents Vic Weston of AGC of America with a generous donation to help Gulf Coast contractors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NATIONAL NEWS,  
VISIT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE CONTRACTORS  
LICENSING AGENCIES' WEBSITE AT  
[www.nascla.org](http://www.nascla.org)



## Contractor Ethics on National Agenda

### *The Louisiana Connection*

Professor James Gill, Jr., JD, Department of Construction Management, Louisiana State University, made a presentation examining contractor ethics and professionalism during NASCLA's (National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies) September 2005 annual conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Professor Gill addressed NASCLA's Board of Directors, and members of state board representing 34 states that regulate the construction industry. Mr. Michael Holland with the ACCE (American Council for Construction Education) co-presented with Professor Gill. The ACCE is actively pursuing the promotion of construction ethics as the basis for improving the image, integrity, and reputation of the contracting profession nationwide. Cooperative and collaborative efforts between National Professional Associations and Educational Institutions will continue to advance professional contractors towards an improved level of trust and confidence by the public at large.

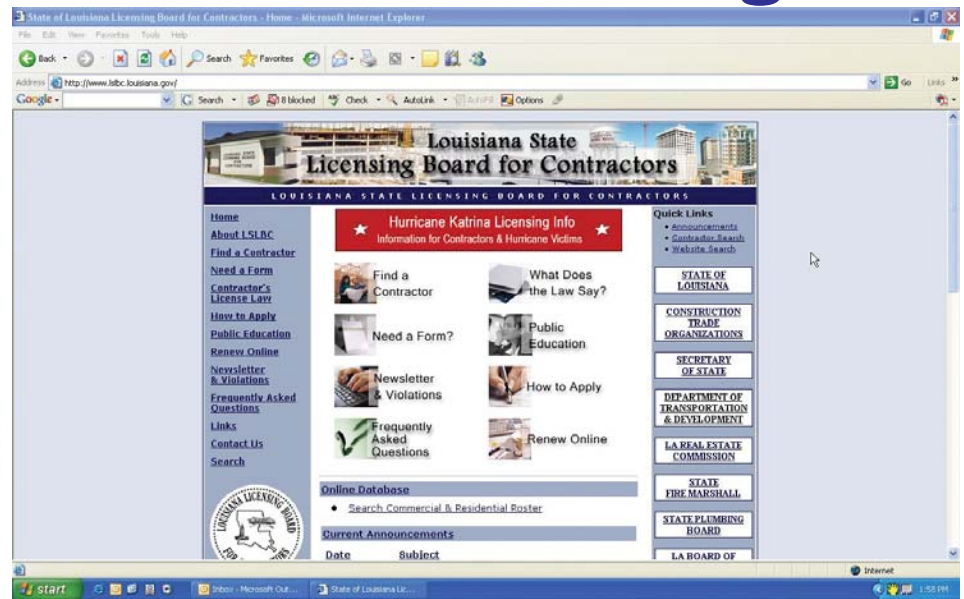
For further information relating to the program, please contact Professor Gill at the Department of Construction Management located at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

image - integrity - reputation

Point  
Click  
Learn?

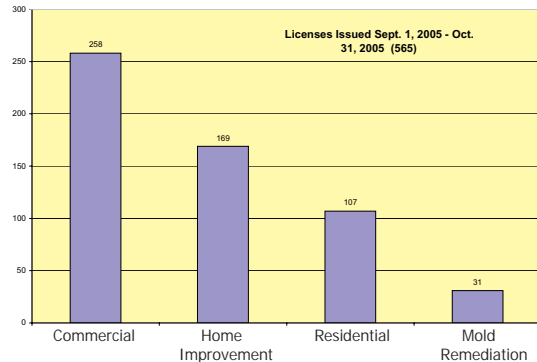
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**[www.lslbc.louisiana.gov](http://www.lslbc.louisiana.gov)**

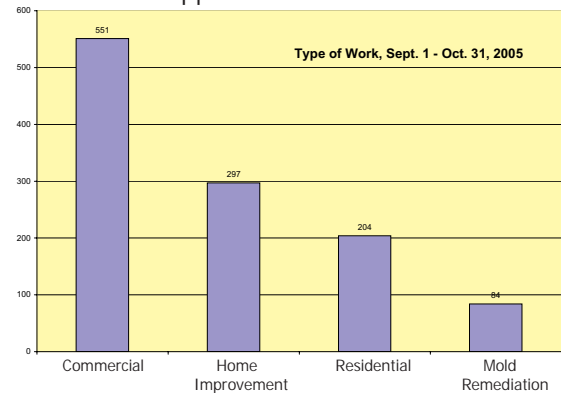


## For Your Information

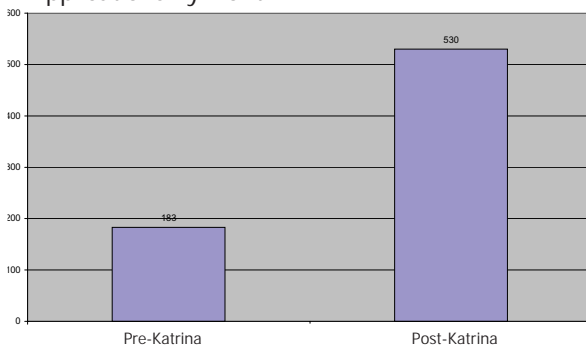
Contractors Licenses Issued



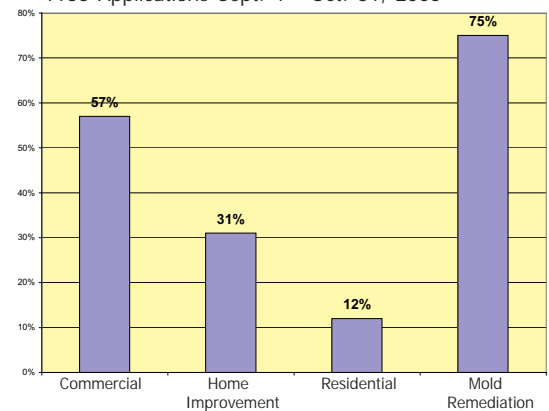
Contractor Applications Received



Applications By Month



Percent Out-Of-State Applicants  
1136 Applications Sept. 1 - Oct. 31, 2005





# Safety Tips for Katrina Reconstruction Work

Louisiana One Call reminds everyone involved in Katrina reconstruction efforts that submerged or buried utilities can be especially dangerous during disaster recovery. Even if you think you know where they are, power lines, pipelines and other underground or underwater facilities may have been moved by Katrina's winds and high water, or during disaster recovery.

Be safe. **Call 800-272-3020 before you dig.** Wait 48 hours. Respect the marks, and dig with care.

Whether you're a contractor or whether you work for city or state government, Louisiana One Call is for you. The service is free and state law requires excavators to use it before they dig. More information and safety tips are available at [www.laonecall.com/katrina](http://www.laonecall.com/katrina).

## SAFETY PAYS!

**THINK  
ABOUT  
IT**

"You are never  
given a dream  
without also being  
given the power to  
make it true."

Richard Bach

"Time flies.  
It's up to you to be  
the navigator."

Robert Orben

## PIPELINE DAMAGE PREVENTION NOTICE

Prevent damage to underground pipelines carrying natural gas and other hazardous materials.

Call **1-800-272-3020** forty-eight hours in advance, *excluding weekends and holidays*, before digging is scheduled to begin. Or dial **#DIG** on any cell phone.

### Have the following information available:

- Name and telephone number of the excavator and name and telephone number of the company
- Date and time the work is scheduled to begin
- Specific location address or description of the work site
- Nearest intersecting roadway to the work site
- Distance and direction of the work site from the nearest intersection
- Advise the operator if explosives will be used.

**Record the locate request number provided by the operator.** It is your proof of the call and may be requested by an enforcement agency.

**If digging activity comes within 18 inches of a utility line or pipeline, exercise extreme caution.**

Hand digging is recommended to expose the buried line.

**Markings for underground utilities are considered valid as long as they are visible up to ten calendar days from the "mark-by" time.** The "mark-by" time is provided by the operator and excludes holidays and weekends. For larger projects, call in only the work that can be accomplished within a ten-day period.

**If damage occurs, notify the utility operator or pipeline company directly.**

**If there is an emergency situation** (*danger to life, health or property requiring immediate attention*), **take steps to safeguard health and property.**

**Wherever possible use white paint, stakes or flags to mark the proposed excavation area.**

**- CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**  
**800-272-3020**  
(#DIG FROM ANY CELL PHONE)  
**- WAIT 48 HOURS**  
**- RESPECT THE MARKS**  
**- DIG WITH CARE**

### FREQUENT CALLERS

Save time by  
entering tickets  
on the internet.

Request  
your access code  
today!

### WARNING IT'S THE LAW

Civil penalties of up to  
**\$25,000**  
for violations of the  
Louisiana Underground  
Utilities and Facilities  
Damage Prevention Law

Remember,  
not all utilities are  
Louisiana One Call  
members.  
You should call  
non-member  
utility operators  
directly.



**1-800-272-3020**  
(#DIG from any cell phone)

IF YOU NEED INFORMATION ON CONTRACTORS' LICENSING IN OTHER STATES, YOU NEED

A COPY OF THE **CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSING INFORMATION DIRECTORY**

The 2005 edition identifies over 170 state agencies that regulate the construction industry. The directory summarizes the pre-qualification, licensing, examination, and bonding requirements. Information regarding reciprocity, license classifications, incorporating, and fees is also included.

**PLEASE SEND** \_\_\_\_\_ book(s) at \$40.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIPPING:** \$10.00 for the first book (\$3.00 for each additional book) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIP TO:** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:** ☐ Check enclosed to NASCLA ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on card (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Fax payment to: 480-948-4117

*the Louisiana Director's*  
**CONTRACTOR NEWS SOURCE**



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